

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 GERALD WILLIAMS,

11 CASE NO. C19-0444-JCC

12 Plaintiff,

13 MINUTE ORDER

14 v.

15 THOMAS VILSACK,

16 Defendant.

17 The following Minute Order is made by direction of the Court, the Honorable John C.
18 Coughenour, United States District Judge:

19 Trial in this matter is currently scheduled for February 7, 2022. (Dkt. No. 77.) On January
20 7, 2022, the Court issued General Order 01-22, which suspended all in-person civil trials
21 scheduled to occur in the ensuing four weeks. W.D. Wash. General Order 01-22 at 1. The
22 General Order indicates that the Court will revisit these procedures before February 7, 2022. *Id.*
23 at 2.) However, the Omicron variant continues to fuel a surge in COVID-19 infections. Because
24 of this, and because of the timing for when trial is scheduled in relation to when General Order
25 01-22 is set to expire—if at all—the Court believes that keeping the current trial date risks the
chance of either a trial occurring under problematic public health conditions or a last-minute
cancellation that could cause great inconvenience to the parties and their counsel.

1 Accordingly it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

2 1. The current trial date (Dkt. No. 77) is VACATED.

3 2. Within seven days of the expiration of the last consecutive General Order
4 providing for a suspension of in-person civil trials, the parties shall file a joint status report
5 proposing additional dates of availability for trial.

6 3. The parties' joint motions in limine (Dkt. No. 84) are STAYED pending the
7 scheduling of a new trial date.

8 4. With respect to the current deadlines for the proposed pretrial order (January 24,
9 2022) and for proposed voir dire, jury instructions, trial briefs, and verdict forms (January 28,
10 2022), the parties may elect to either:

11 a. Submit those materials by the current deadlines, so as to facilitate the
12 Court's preparation for trial proceedings once a new trial date is set; or

13 b. Ignore the current deadlines, in which case the Court will set new ones
14 when it schedules a new trial date.

15 DATED this 24th day of January 2022.

16 Ravi Subramanian
Clerk of Court

17 s/Sandra Rawski
Deputy Clerk